

# **Governor's Advisory Commission on Aging**

## **Minutes**

**February 15, 2006**

**Members Present: Sister Marietta Walsh, Bennett Plotkin, Ph.D., Janice Zeichner, Nancy Pontes, Rev. Dr. Paul Franklin Bliss, Ken Reynolds, Maria Matias, Louise King and Madeline Ernest**

**Others in Attendance: Paula Parker (DEA) and Mary King (guest)**

**Excused: Corinne Calise Russo, Ann Gardella, Gloria Williams, Lisa Pontarelli and Esther Price**

**Absent: Herb Weiss, Joseph Corrente, Raymond Tetreault, Dr. Herb Constantine, Libby Arron, Joseph Brown, Helen Friend and Norm Chapman**

### **I. Minutes**

**The minutes of the January 18, 2006 were approved with one correction: Louise King had been excused not absent.**

### **II. Chairperson's Report**

**There was no report because the Chairperson was excused.**

### **III. Director's Report**

**The Director was excused so her report was delivered by Paula Parker of DEA. She discussed the Governor's proposed budget for 2007 and how it would affect the Department of Elderly Affairs.**

**Reverend Doctor Paul Bliss expressed his concern regarding the proposed budget cuts in the RiteCare program and stated that he felt that the Commission should write to the Governor expressing concern about how the budget cuts would affect vulnerable citizens such as the homeless and RiteCare recipients.**

**There was general discussion about the issue of homelessness and the need for affordable housing in Rhode Island. Several Commission members said that they would form a sub-committee to look at the issue of affordable housing and report back to the Commission.**

**Paula Parker said that she would speak to the Director about a possible meeting between the Commission and the Governor.**

**The Commission voted to approve the draft of the letter that would be sent to members who have repeatedly missed meetings without notifying the Chair. The letter would invite them to resign from the Commission if they are unable to make the time commitment to attend meetings and to provide their seat to an individual who is able to make the commitment.**

## **IV. Treasurer's Report**

**The Treasurer was excused so there was no report.**

## **V. Committee Reports**

**LTCCC: Sister Marietta Walsh reported that at the last LTCCC meeting there was discussion of the State Resolution requesting Congress to revise the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan. In addition, DHS presented a report on possible changes to the licensing of Assisted Living facilities to distinguish between different types of facilities. There was also discussion of the movie "Almost Home" which was shown on PBS and which was discussed by a panel of State elder care advocates.**

**New England Coalition: Sister Marietta Walsh said that there was no activity to report.**

**Forum on Aging: Joe Brown was absent but Madeline Ernest reported that the Forum on Aging will be participating in the Senior Expo to be held at Warwick Mall in April. Madeline stated that she would like to hold an Annual Symposium sponsored by the Forum to present all of the resources available to seniors throughout the State.**

**Silver Haired Legislature: No report**

## **VI. Old Business**

**Paula Parker reported that the Transportation sub-committee had met and that the group has learned that Senator John Tassoni will introduce a Resolution to request that DEA and the Advisory Commission study all aspects of the Independent Transportation Network model of Maine as a possible option for Rhode Island.**

## **VII. New Business**

**The Group proposed inviting the Governor to the Commission's Annual Meeting to be held June 28, 2006 at the Atria Bay Spring Village in Barrington.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Paula Parker**